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Monday, March 19, 2012 · Number 52

NEWS

Agriculture  
EU Will Not Back Stricter Mandatory Controls  
On Agriculture to Reduce Reactive Nitrogen  
ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—Members of the European Union have not agreed to back new mandatory control measures on its agriculture under an international convention despite recent scientific evidence of harmful levels of reactive nitrogen...

Agriculture  
Kentucky Hog Farm Odor Class Certified  
For Second Time by U.S. District Court  
For the second time, a federal district court has approved class certification for a group of Kentucky residents in a nuisance and negligence suit arising out of allegedly noxious odors emanating from nearby hog barns (Powell v. Tosh, W.D....

Air Pollution  
Mercury From North American Power Plants  
Fell by 26 Percent in Three Years, CEC Says  
OTTAWA—Air releases of mercury and its compounds from the North American electricity generation sector fell about 26 percent between 2006 and 2009, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation said March 15....

Air Pollution  
States Seek to Intervene on Behalf of EPA  
In Case Challenging Mercury Standards  
Twelve states and two cities are backing the Environmental Protection Agency in a case challenging mercury and air toxics standards for power plants (White Stallion Energy Center LLC v. EPA, D.C. Cir., No. 12-1100, motion filed 3/16/12)....

Brownfields  
EPA to Make \$7 Million Available for Brownfields Grants  
The Environmental Protection Agency said it will make available about \$7 million in supplemental funds to revolving loan capitalization grants previously awarded under section 104(k)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response,...

Climate Change  
Canada Still Committed to Global Solutions  
Despite Exit From Protocol, Minister Says  
VANCOUVER, B.C.—Although Canada has withdrawn from the Kyoto Protocol, it remains committed to the global effort to establish a broader agreement to counter global warming, Environment Minister Peter Kent said March 15....

Climate Change  
EPA Extends Comment Period on Confidentiality Rule  
The Environmental Protection Agency will continue to accept comments until April 9 on a proposed rule that would determine which information reported by oil and natural gas companies on greenhouse gas emissions would

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be kept confidential,...

#### Drilling

##### EPA Says Tests Show Water Safe to Drink In First Group of Pennsylvania Wells Sampled

PHILADELPHIA—The test results of recent well-water sampling at 11 homes near Dimock, the northeastern Pennsylvania town where groundwater contamination was linked to natural gas drilling in 2009, did not show contamination levels...

#### Drilling

##### North Carolina Agency's Draft Report Finds Fracking Safe, With Restrictions

RALEIGH, N.C.—Hydraulic fracturing can be conducted safely in North Carolina as long as certain protections are in place, the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources said in a draft report released March 16....

#### Emissions Trading

##### Generators Buy Most Allowances at RGGI Auction

ALBANY, N.Y.—The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) announced March 16 that 21.5 million carbon dioxide allowances were sold in its recent auction at a price of \$1.93 per allowance, raising \$41 million for the nine states participating...

#### Energy

##### Commerce Department Expected to Back Duties on Chinese-Made Solar Cells

The Commerce Department is expected to make a preliminary determination to impose countervailing duties on Chinese-made solar cells and panels in a ruling that could have negative ramifications for the U.S. solar industry, a panel of trade...

#### Energy

##### DuPont Executive Says 2012 Will Be Pivotal Year for Use of Cellulosic Ethanol

VANCOUVER, B.C.—This year will be pivotal for growth in the use of cellulosic ethanol, a DuPont official said March 15....

#### Energy

##### Long-Stalled Rules for Siting, Permitting Wind Turbines Take Effect in Wisconsin

CHICAGO—Uniform wind energy siting and permitting rules for Wisconsin, which had been stalled for more than a year, became effective March 16 after state lawmakers adjourned from their spring session without passing legislation...

#### Energy

##### Natural Gas Use in Transport Saves Money, Reduces Harmful Emissions, Conference Told

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Increased use of natural gas for public and commercial transportation makes sense for providers' bottom lines and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, speakers at the GLOBE 2012 conference on business and the environment...

#### Enforcement

##### \$3.6 Million Settlement With PG&E Finalized

LOS ANGELES—California regional water quality officials March 15 signed off on a \$3.6 million settlement with Pacific Gas and Electric Co., resolving alleged violations of a 2008 cleanup order involving plumes of hexavalent and total...

#### Enforcement

##### Regional Water Board Orders Cleanup Of Contaminated Areas of San Diego Bay

LOS ANGELES—The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board has approved a cleanup and abatement order to remediate 21 acres of contaminated sediment in San Diego Bay. ...

#### Enforcement

##### Truck Stop Operator to Pay \$1M to Settle Alleged Storage Tank Violations in California

LOS ANGELES—TravelCenters of America will pay about \$1 million to resolve alleged violations of hazardous waste and underground storage tank laws at a truck stop in Coachella, under a settlement announced March 15 (California v. TA...

#### Enforcement

##### Wal-Mart to Pay \$1.25 Million to Settle Allegations of Missouri Waste Violations

ST. LOUIS—Wal-Mart Stores Inc. will pay \$1.25 million to resolve allegations that it violated the Missouri Hazardous Waste Management Law in connection with disposal of wastes by a Wal-Mart contractor, state prosecutors announced...

#### Pipeline Safety

##### OMB Clears Proposed Rule to Assess Adequacy of State Excavation Laws

The White House Office of Management and Budget has completed its review of a proposed rule to determine the adequacy of state excavation damage laws for pipelines, according to a notice posted on the OMB website March 14....

Recycling  
[Product Take-Back Programs Increasing In Popularity in United States, Companies Say](#)

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Product take-back programs are becoming more popular in the United States, representatives from manufacturing and retail companies said March 15. ...

Solid Waste  
[Connecticut High Court Says State Cannot Take Company Assets to Pay Judgment](#)

A Connecticut environmental protection commissioner cannot reach a corporation's assets to satisfy an outstanding judgment for solid waste disposal violations against a shareholder, the state Supreme Court has held (Commissioner...

Sustainability  
[Corporate Executives Share Inventive Ideas For Reducing Company's Carbon Footprint](#)

VANCOUVER, B.C.—A number of ways are available to companies to help reduce their carbon footprint besides familiar methods such as installing more energy-efficient equipment and upgrades, corporate executives said March 16....

Transportation  
[Environmental Review of Transit Projects Would Be Streamlined Under FTA Proposal](#)

The Federal Transit Administration is proposing to streamline environmental reviews for transit projects by expanding the categories of projects for which no significant environmental analysis is required. ...

Water Pollution  
[California Central Coast Water Regulators Update Discharge Rules for Irrigated Lands](#)

LOS ANGELES—California regional water quality officials March 15 updated agricultural waste discharge requirements to better protect groundwater and surface waters in the Salinas Valley and Santa Maria areas from nitrates and...

Water Pollution  
[Coast Guard Issues Final Rule on Standards For Organisms in Ballast Water Discharges](#)

The Coast Guard March 16 released a final rule to establish allowable concentrations of living organisms in ballast water discharged in U.S. waters....

BNA INSIGHTS

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[TSCA Protects Confidential Chemical Identities In Health and Safety Studies From Disclosure](#)

There are strong policy reasons why EPA should reconsider its stance against CBI protection for chemical identities in health and safety studies. Trade secrets are crucial to U.S. leadership in innovation in a global economy, but the CBI disclosure...

CALENDAR

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[MARCH 16 FEDERAL REGISTER](#)

[MARCH 19 FEDERAL REGISTER](#)

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